

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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R 091430Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2452

UNCLAS NICOSIA 2984

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC CY

SUBJECT: EXHIBITION OF ART TREASURES FROM CYPRUS

REF: STATE 237377

EMBASSY ENDORSES SITES-GOC PLAN TO DISPLAY TREASURES OF CYPRUS
EXHIBIT BASED ON SEVERAL CONSIDERATIONS:

(8 GOC (STAVROU) ASSURES US THERE IS NO INTENTION WHATEVER
MAKING POLITICAL POINTS. THIS BASICALLY A PERMANENT COLLECTION
WHICH BEEN WIDELY SHOWN ABROAD RECENT YEARS WITHOUT AROUSING
CONTROVERSY. WHILE POLITICAL SITUATION PRESENTLY MUCH MORE
SENSITIVE, EXHIBIT'S INTEGRITY HAS STRONG SANCTION OF PRECEDENT.

2. UNDER AGREEMENT DISCUSSED, SITES WOULD HAVE ULTIMATE EDITORIAL
CONTROL OF DESCRIPTIVE MATERIALS. IF REASSURANCE NECESSARY,
SITES COULD CLEAR THESE THROUGH DEPARTMENT OR EMBASSY.

3. STAVROU WILLING VISIT WASHINGTON TO CONSULT WITH SITES ON
FINAL ARRANGEMENTS. HE ALSO WOULD WELCOME SITES REPRESENTATIVES
HERE. FINAL SELECTION ARTIFACTS THEREFORE STILL OPEN TO ABAUSTMENT.

4. GOC WISHES TO PRESERVE FOLK ART SECTION HIGHLIGHTING LAST
400 YEARS BECAUSE IT TRADITIONAL PART OF STANDING EXHIBIT. THIS
SECTION WILL NOT DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN GREEK OR TURK COMMUNITY
ORIGINS OF CYPRIOT MATERIALS.

5. FYI: STAVROU STRESSES HIS TALK WITH HOGLAND 15 MONTHS
AGO DID NOT FORESHADOW ANY EXCLUSION OF TURKISH ARTIFACTS;
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RATHER HE WAS POINTING OUT PERIOD OF TURKISH OCCUPATION HAS

YIELDED VIRTUALLY NO TRANSPORTABLE MATERIALS. TO EXTENT THAT
SITES RESERVATIONS BASED ON THIS CONVERSATION, DEPARTMENT MAY
WISH POINT OUT HOGLAND NOTES HAVE CONFUSED THE EXHIBIT'S TIME
FRAMES, WHICH UNDERSTANDABLE CONSIDERING GREAT STRESS ALL WERE
UNDER AT THAT TIME. EG, PERIOD OF TURKISH OCCUPATION OS NOT
1200-1400, BUT 1571-1878. THIS AS WELL AS FRATCISH PERIOD IS
LEAN ON ARTIFACTS.

6. EMBASSY THEREFORE RECOMMENDS SITES PURSUE ARRANGEMENTS.
CRAWFORD

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